



# Regional Policy For Youth Sports Participation

With signups in 2005 all children entering City of Roanoke Youth Athletics will sign up with the recreation club (s) serving their particular community. Certain circumstances will be “**grandfathered**” as listed below.

The intent of the Grandfather Clause is for each family currently in the recreation club system to establish and maintain a recreation club that their children will play recreational sports for and maintain an affiliation with, throughout their participation, regardless of sport.

## **Grandfather Clause**

Families with one or more children may continue playing for their current club under the following conditions:

- Additional children, as they become age qualified or simply decide to begin playing recreational sports, remain loyal to the club of siblings who are currently playing.
- If a child desires to play a sport not provided by their current recreation club, he or she may choose to participate with another club by obtaining a “letter of release.” The letter must be obtained by the family from their “established” club and submitted by the temporary club’s Athletic Director with the new roster. These procedures also apply if a child has been placed on a waiting list and has not received confirmation of team placement within 7 days of the first day of practice.

## **Consequences of Non-Compliance**

Any players found to be ineligible will be removed from the team immediately and all games played in by the ineligible player will be forfeited.

## **Sport Waiting Lists**

If a child is put on a waiting list and not placed on a team with seven days or less remaining before the first scheduled practice for that sport begins they may choose to participate with another recreation club for that season only.

If this happens, the recreation club must contact the parents of those children on the waiting list and Parks and Recreation to notify them of the need for special team placement. Parks and Recreation will then notify the surrounding clubs to try and place these children.

The City of Roanoke Parks and Recreation Department, with input from its volunteer recreation clubs located throughout the City, developed this policy to provide uniformity and clarity to the recreation club system in Roanoke and to families currently participating or soon to participate in recreational sports.

## **Specifics Pertaining To Recreation Clubs Within Regions:**

- **REGION I - YMCA**

The YMCA shall permit children on their team rosters that are members of the YMCA Family Center Branch located at 108 Orange Avenue, NW and the YMCA Central Branch located at 520 Church Avenue, SW to participate in their recreation club. If membership status is questioned, the club will be required to submit a copy of the YMCA membership form to Parks and Recreation.

If a child becomes a member of the YMCA after being affiliated with a recreation club, the child has the one-time option of playing for the YMCA or his/her recreation club. Per the Grandfather Clause, once a club is chosen, the child is not eligible to switch clubs.

If a child currently a member of the YMCA chooses to play for another recreation club and not the YMCA, the child is no longer eligible to play for the YMCA. In this case, the child has chosen his recreation club and is not eligible to switch clubs.

All other children must live within the boundaries of Region I unless the child falls under the 'grandfather clause.'

- **REGION I -High Street Baptist**  
High Street Baptist shall only permit children on their team rosters which live within the boundaries of Region I unless the child falls under the 'grandfather clause.'
- **REGION I - Pilgrim Baptist**  
Pilgrim Baptist shall only permit children on their team rosters which live within the boundaries of Region I unless the child falls under the 'grandfather clause.'
- **REGION III - Roanoke Catholic School**  
Roanoke Catholic School shall only permit children on their team rosters that are enrolled in the school unless the child falls under the 'grandfather clause.'

If a child enrolls in Roanoke Catholic School after already establishing a recreation club, the child has the one-time option of playing for the school or his/her established recreation club.

If a child currently enrolled in Roanoke Catholic chooses to play for another recreation club and not the school, he is no longer eligible to play for Roanoke Catholic. In this case, the child has chosen his recreation club and is not eligible to switch clubs.

- **REGION III - South City Knights**  
The South City Knights recreation club shall permit children on their team rosters that are members of The Boys and Girls Club located at 1714 9<sup>th</sup> Street, SE; The Salvation Army located at 724 Dale Avenue, SE; and The Presbyterian Community Center located at 1228 Jamison Avenue, SE to participate in their recreation club. With all three organizations located in Region III, they have formed a partnership with the South City Knights to provide youth sports in this region's community. If membership status is questioned, the club will be required to submit a copy of their membership form to Parks and Recreation.

All other children must live within the boundaries of Region III unless the child falls under the 'grandfather clause.'